

Submitter: VIPUL PATEL

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

As a hotel owner in Oregon, I strongly oppose House Bill 4134, which increases the state transient lodging tax and adds additional fees to every guest stay. While I deeply value our state's natural resources, raising the lodging tax places an added burden directly on visitors at a time when our industry is already facing slower demand, rising labor costs, inflationary pressures, and intense competition from neighboring states and short-term rental platforms. Higher taxes make Oregon a more expensive destination, discouraging travel and group bookings that are essential to our occupancy rates—especially during shoulder and off-peak seasons. Reduced occupancy directly impacts our profitability, limiting our ability to reinvest in property improvements, maintain competitive wages, and retain valued employees who depend on stable hours and income. Unlike larger corporations, many of us are small or family-owned businesses operating on tight margins. An increase in the transient lodging tax may appear modest on paper, but in practice it compounds existing local taxes and fees, ultimately weakening the hospitality sector, reducing tourism-driven economic activity, and placing additional strain on the very communities this bill aims to support.